DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

TREASURY NEWS

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STATEMENT BY UNITED STATES TREASURER MARY ELLEN WITHROW

Thank you, Paul.

I am honored to be here today. Most people see and use paper money every day of their lives without realizing the great skill, dedication and individual artistry that goes into the creation of each and every note.

Mr. Blackmer spoke of his pride in the Bureau's work force and their dedication to doing the job well. I would also like to praise the Bureau's employees. I want to emphasis their dedication to making their community a better place. In April of 1990, the employees of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing established a voluntary program to provide assistance to the needy in the metropolitan area. This Community Outreach Program quickly designed a strategy flexible enough to assist those in crisis situations and to address much-needed, long-range projects.

The Outreach Program has done many exciting things over the past five years: adopting a teenaged mother and her two children and providing them with material, educational, and moral support; and adopting Grandma's House, special homes in Washington, D. C., for children who have been exposed to the HIV virus. BEP employees completely furnished a room in one of these houses. The Outreach Program also provides recreational games to senior citizen residents at the Mount Vernon House so that they might enjoy their leisure time.

Other exciting outreach activities are with the D.C. Public Schools. Bureau employees decided to focus their attention on youth for two reasons: to serve as role models and to help develop the future workforce of the Bureau. The Bureau Police Force has been assisting the Harrison Elementary School for about nine years. They support the school financially as well as personally. At least once a week an officer is at the school talking to the students. Recently, they purchased software for the science department computer and donated winter jackets to those who needed them.

RR-271

We are happy to have 25 fifth graders from Harrison Elementary School here today for this ceremony. Please stand. Let's give them a hand. The Bureau also maintains a partnership with McKinley/Penn Senior High School. The Adopt-A-School Program was designed to help prepare high school students for the workplace and motivate them for jobs involving new technology by exposing them to and involving them in BEP's professional work environment.

Last October, a ceremony was held here at the Bureau to honor the eight McKinley/Penn students who successfully completed an eight-week School-to Work program the previous summer. Prior to their eight weeks at the Bureau, the students participated in tours and workshops at the Bureau to gain first-hand knowledge about operations and overall professional behavior in the workplace.

BEP has made a firm long-term commitment to this partnership with McKinley/Penn High School, incorporating it into the Human Resource Development part of BEP 2000. The success of this program complements BEP's dedication to expanding the quality of life options for a few Washington's youth and to making long-term investment in the development of BEP's future labor force.

-30-